

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Indiana

They Don't Just Get Cats Out of Trees

"...DOSE is a great program for the first responders and an excellent tribute to everyone involved in all aspects of the responder training, citizen education, funding agencies...that will lead to a reduction in our [ASSB] numbers statewide...!"

Mike Sharp, Firefighter
St. John, Indiana

Public Health Problem (Issue)

All of Indiana's first responders have that story - the story about the baby they attempted to revive and transport, but that didn't make it. Most of these professionals are eager to never have to respond to another one of those calls again. Unfortunately, over the last 5 years, more than 3,000 Hoosier infants have died before their first birthday—that's nearly 42 schools buses at maximum capacity. Even more tragic is the fact that many of these deaths were preventable. Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB) is preventable, and it's a leading cause of these infant deaths. Shockingly, Indiana's ASSB rate has been nearly double the U.S. rate for the last few years, so while the message about infant safe sleep is out there, it's not reaching the right audience.

Captain James Carroll, a firefighter in Broward County Florida, recognized a unique opportunity to help prevent these infant deaths and developed Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE™) with Jennifer Combs, a NICU nurse with Broward County Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies. "We have access to homes that no one else has. When people call 911, they are asking for our help. We have an opportunity to look for safe sleep risks and save lives," said Capt. Carroll.

DOSE is an innovative program that works to prevent ASSB by training first responders to identify infant safe sleep hazards, remove the hazards and provide education while responding to emergency and non-emergency calls. This training puts the power of prevention into their hands and has engaged a whole new group of allies in preventing these tragic sleep-related deaths.

Taking Action (Intervention)

The ISDH Child Fatality Review (CFR) Program worked with the ISDH Trauma and Injury Program and the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association to bring DOSE™ to Indiana in 2016. A vast network of infant safe sleep partners has resulted. With help from the CDC's Preventive Health and Human Services (PHHS) Block Grant:

- The ISDH worked with internal and external partners and stakeholders to engage and extend invitations to all first responder agencies (paid and volunteer) in the state.
- Captain Carroll provided DOSE train-the-trainer sessions at multiple sites throughout the state over several weeks.
- Classroom training materials and community and educational resources were provided to all DOSE™-trained agencies.
- First responders were connected with the Indiana Safe Sleep Program so that any caregiver in need could access a free crib and education resources.

Impact

First responders understand the importance of primary prevention, are grateful for the support and are excited to take DOSE back to their communities. Thanks to the PHHS Block Grant and the dedication of

Indiana's first responders, the message about infant safe sleep continues to spread. To date:

- Representatives from 68 of the 92 counties have been trained – a total of over 150 trainers in 100 agencies!
- The trainers have already trained over 450 staff members.
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is working to make DOSE™ training a mandatory standard for all fire and EMS professionals.
- Regions in Indiana with the highest infant mortality rates have been targeted and saturated with DOSE™ trainers
- Participating agencies are reporting demographic information on DOSE™ encounters to assist with tracking outcomes.
- DOSE training sessions continue to be requested and an additional 200 responders are scheduled to be trained as trainers by March 2017.

The CFR Program and all of Indiana's first responders strive to lower the number of infants that die in Indiana. Through their skills in educating families on the prevention of ASSB and their connection to resources for caregivers with infants, these professionals are working hard in their communities to help their neighbors, families and friends. The work in the hope that one day they will no longer have to respond to those terrible 911 calls.

Footnotes

Indiana Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health

Indiana Data Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Epidemiology Resource Center, Data Analysis Team

United States Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Data

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Healthy People Objective

Child Fatality Review of Child Deaths Due to External Causes

PHHS Block Grant Funding

100% - Total source of funding

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For more information on the

PHHS Block Grant, go to

www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant

For more information on

Healthy People, go to www.healthypeople.gov

PHHS Block Grant Supports

Indiana Healthy People Priorities

The PHHS Block Grant provides flexible funding that states can use to prevent and control chronic diseases, respond quickly to outbreaks of infections and waterborne diseases, and address their specific public health needs. States can align their programs with health objectives from [Healthy People](#).

Indiana uses its funds to address 14 health objective priorities, including

- Cardiovascular Health.
- Community Water Fluoridation.
- Accredited Public Health Agencies.
- Public Health Agency Quality Improvement Program.
- Health Improvement Plans.

For a complete list of funded health objectives, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/stateHPprior.htm>.